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Diana T Fritz 03/21/2007 05:51:08 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

June 01, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2576 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: ROADMAP IRAQ
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 02576

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:KVANDEVATE
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

VZCZCAD191
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #2576/01 1520945
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 010945Z JUN 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0162
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0669
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0723
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 002576

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OIIP KMDR TC
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ROADMAP IRAQ

¶1. SUMMARY: THE ISRAELI CABINET'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE ROADMAP,
THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ, AND THE LIFTING OF UN SANCTIONS ON
IRAQ DOMINATED COVERAGE IN UAE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. AN

"AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT BOTH 'AL QAEDA' AND ISRAEL ARE SIMILAR IN THEIR AIMS AND GOALS. AN "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIAL ALLEGED THAT THE U.S. IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT IMPLEMENTING THE ROADMAP. ANOTHER "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDES ARE ON THE RISE IN IRAQ. END SUMMARY.

12. A/S LINCOLN BLOOMFIELD'S VISIT TO THE UAE RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. SPECIAL COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO HIS MEETING WITH SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN RASHED AL MAKTOUM, DUBAI'S CROWN PRINCE AND UAE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE IN ABU DHABI FACILITATED A EXCLUSIVE TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH 'AL ARABIYYA' SATELLITE TV CHANNEL THAT WAS AIRED IN ITS ENTIRETY ON 5/26 AT 21:30 (17:30 GMT). DURING THE INTERVIEW, A/S BLOOMFIELD COMMENTED ON MANY ISSUES, INCLUDING THE WAR ON TERRORISM, REGIONAL COOPERATION AND STABILITY, U.S. EFFORTS TO RESTORE STABILITY IN IRAQ, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP. PAO ALSO FACILITATED AN EXCLUSIVE PRINT INTERVIEW WITH DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED ARABIC DAILY "AL-BAYAN" THAT LARGEY FOCUSED ON IRAQ. THIS INTERVIEW WILL BE PRINTED LATER IN THE WEEK.

13. ON 5/26, EXPATRIATE-ORIENTED ENGLISH DAILY "GULF NEWS" REPRINTED A LOS ANGELES TIMES-WASHINGTON POST NEWS SERVICE ARTICLE BY SULAIMAN AL HATTAN ENTITLED, "FOCUS ON TODAY'S REALITIES." COMMENT: THE REPRINT IS UNIQUE IN THAT THE ARTICLE CONTAINS POINTS VERY CRITICAL OF ARAB AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS SUCH AS:

--"IT IS TIME FOR ARAB INTELLECTUALS TO SAY PUBLICLY WHAT THEY HAVE LONG BEEN ACKNOWLEDGING PRIVATELY: MOST ARAB LEADERS HAVE FAILED THEIR PEOPLE."

--"THE FUTURE, IN THE ARAB WORLD, HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S BUSINESS. BUT THIS HASN'T TAKEN US ANYWHERE. LOOK AT OUR SOCIAL FAILURES: SEVERE GENDER SEGREGATION AND THE LACK OF RESPECT FOR WOMEN HAVE CREATED PARALYSED SOCIETIES. THE PRACTICE OF ART AND MUSIC HAS BECOME A SIN IN MANY ARAB COUNTRIES. THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM HAS BECOME A SOURCE OF IGNORANCE RATHER THAN KNOWLEDGE. AS A RESULT, YOUNG ARABS TODAY LIVE UNDER A SIEGE OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND RELIGIOUS TABOOS."

--"WE MUST LET GO OF THIS DISTORTED VERSION OF HISTORY, WHICH GLORIFIES ONLY WHAT OUR ANCESTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THE ANCIENT WORLD'S CIVILIZATIONS AND BLAMES OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS ON THE INFLUENCE OF OUTSIDERS. INSTEAD, WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON TODAY'S REALITY OF ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, POVERTY, LACK OF FREEDOM, AND, INDEED, LACK OF HOPE."

--"UNLESS WE BEGIN AN AUTHENTIC REVISIONIST DIALOGUE ABOUT WHAT REALLY WENT WRONG IN OUR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCE DURING THE PAST CENTURY OR SO, THE OTHER SADDAMS IN OUR SOCIETIES - CORRUPT POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS - WILL CONTINUE TO PRODUCE DISASTROUS RESULTS." END COMMENT.

4 CLAIMING THAT SIMILARITIES EXIST BETWEEN 'AL QAEDA' AND ISRAEL, ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 5/26:

"... THE RESULT THAT BOTH 'AL QAEDA' AND ISRAEL ARE SEEKING FROM THESE CONTINUOUS ATTACKS AGAINST HUMANITY IS TO DISMANTLE THE NETWORK OF HEAVENLY COMMUNITY VALUES AND TO KEEP THE MIDDLE EAST ECONOMICALLY, RELIGIOUSLY, AND POLITICALLY BOILING IN ORDER TO FREEZE PEACE ..."

5 ASSERTING THAT ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDES ARE ON THE RISE IN IRAQ, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 5/26:

"... THE VOICES OF OPPOSITION ARE NOTING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DECEIVED AND THAT ALL THEY AGREED UPON WITH THE AMERICANS DIFFERS FROM REALITY, THEY HAVE DISCOVERED THAT WINTER AND SUMMER DO NOT MEET ... THIS IS WHAT THE IRAQI PEOPLE FEEL, AND THE POLITICAL POWERS ARE STARING TO FEEL, AND WHEN BOTH THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND SINCERE POWERS UNITE UNDER ONE NATIONAL PRINCIPLE, THEN LIBERTY WILL RETURN, AND OCCUPATION WILL BE GONE."

6 ALLEGING THAT THE U.S. IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT IMPLEMENTING THE ROADMAP, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 5/25:

"... IF AMERICAN GUARANTEES FOR ISRAEL INCLUDE GUARANTEEING ITS SECURITY, SAFETY, AND SUPERIORITY, THEN THE GUARANTEES GIVEN TO

THE PALESTINIANS ARE NOT UNDERSTANDABLE. IF ISRAEL IS GOING TO GET EVERYTHING IT WANTS, SOME OF WHICH INCLUDES CORE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS, THEN WHAT WILL BE LEFT FOR THE PALESTINIANS? ... THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AS WELL AS THE ARABS, ARE FACING A CRITICAL AND DANGEROUS PHASE DUE TO THE CRUSHING AMERICAN POWER ALLIED WITH EXPANDING, RACIST, ZIONIST ATTACKS. BUT RESISTANCE, HOLDING ONTO THEIR RIGHTS, AND POSSESSING THE WILL TO FIGHT WILL PREVENT (THE PALESTINIANS FROM) FALLING INTO THE TRAP SET TO CAPTURE THE PALESTINIANS AND THEIR RIGHTS."

7 COMMENTING ON THE UN RESOLUTION TO LIFT SANCTIONS ON IRAQ, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 5/23:

"... BUSH LAUGHS SECRETLY AT EVERYONE SINCE HE IS THE ONE WHO DEVOURED IRAQ AND WILL DEVOUR ITS RESOURCES, ONLY RETURNING THEM TO THE IRAQIS BIT-BY-BIT. HE WILL DETERMINE HOW THEY SHOULD LIVE, WHAT THEY SHOULD EAT, HOW THEY SHOULD BE EDUCATED, WHAT ARMY SHOULD THEY BUILD, AND WHICH RELIGION SHOULD THEY FOLLOW ... THE QUESTION THAT ARISES IS, IF LIFTING SANCTIONS ON IRAQ TOOK 13 YEARS AND ENDED IN ITS OCCUPATION, THEN HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO END THE OCCUPATION? ..."

WAHBA